

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1        1.        A search method comprising the steps of:  
2                determining if a first parameter has a first predetermined value; and  
3                if said first parameter has said first predetermined value, returning a value of each  
4                of one or more selected members of a first node, said first node being referenced by a  
5                value of a first member of a second node in response to said first member of said second  
6                node having a predetermined type.

1        2.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining if a second  
2                member of said second node matches a value of a second parameter.

1        3.        The method of claim 2 wherein said step of returning said value of each of one  
2                or more members of said first node is in response to said second member of said second  
3                node matching said value of said second parameter.

1        4.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of returning values of a  
2                selected set of members of said second node.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of determining if a second  
2 member of said second node matches a value of a second parameter, and wherein said  
3 step of returning values of said selected set of members of said second node is in  
4 response to said second member of said second node matching said value of said second  
5 parameter.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, if said first parameter has  
2 said first predetermined value, returning a value of each of one or more selected members  
3 of a third node, said third node being referenced by a value of a first member of said first  
4 node in response to said first member of said first node having said predetermined type.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said selected members of said first node and said  
2 selected members of said third node are selected in response to a value of a second  
3 parameter.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said first parameter comprises a parameter of a  
2 set of parameters in a search request.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said search request comprises a Lightweight  
2 Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) search request.

1 10. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the  
2 program product comprising a program of instructions for performing the method steps  
3 of:

4 determining if a first parameter has a first predetermined value; and  
5 if said first parameter has said first predetermined value, returning a value of each  
6 of one or more selected members of a first node, said first node being referenced by a  
7 value of a first member of a second node in response to said first member of said second  
8 node having a predetermined type.

1 11. The program product of claim 10 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of determining if a second member of said second node matches a value of a  
3 second parameter.

1 12. The program product of claim 11 wherein said instructions for performing step  
2 of returning said value of each of one or more members of said first node are performed  
3 in response to said second member of said second node matching said value of said  
4 second parameter.

1 13. The program product of claim 10 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of returning values of a selected set of members of said second node.

3 14. The program product of claim 13 further comprising instructions for performing  
4 the step of determining if a second member of said second node matches a value of a

5 second parameter, and wherein said instructions for performing step of returning values  
6 of said selected set of members of said second node are performed in response to said  
7 second member of said second node matching said value of said second parameter.

1 15. The program product of claim 10 further comprising instructions for performing  
2 the step of, if said first parameter has said first predetermined value, returning a value of  
3 each of one or more selected members of a third node, said third node being referenced  
4 by a value of a first member of said first node in response to said first member of said  
5 first node having said predetermined type.

1 16. The program product of claim 15 wherein said selected members of said first  
2 node and said selected members of said third node are selected in response to a value of  
3 a second parameter.

1 17. The program product of claim 10 wherein said first parameter comprises a  
2 parameter of a set of parameters in a search request.

1 18. The program product of claim 17 wherein said search request comprises a  
2 Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) search request.

1 19. A data processing system comprising:  
2 circuitry operable for determining if a first parameter has a first predetermined  
3 value; and  
4 circuitry operable for, if said first parameter has said first predetermined value,  
5 returning a value of each of one or more selected members of a first node, said first node  
6 being referenced by a value of a first member of a second node in response to said first  
7 member of said second node having a predetermined type.

1 20. The system of claim 19 further comprising circuitry operable for determining if  
2 a second member of said second node matches a value of a second parameter.

1 21. The system of claim 20 wherein said circuitry operable for returning said value  
2 of each of one or more members of said first node is operable in response to said second  
3 member of said second node matching said value of said second parameter.

1 22. The system of claim 19 further comprising circuitry operable for returning values  
2 of a selected set of members of said second node.

1 23. The system of claim 22 further comprising circuitry operable for determining if  
2 a second member of said second node matches a value of a second parameter, and  
3 wherein said circuitry operable for returning values of said selected set of members of  
4 said second node is operable in response to said second member of said second node  
5 matching said value of said second parameter.

1 24. The system of claim 19 further comprising circuitry operable for, if said first  
2 parameter has said first predetermined value, returning a value of each of one or more  
3 selected members of a third node, said third node being referenced by a value of a first  
4 member of said first node in response to said first member of said first node having said  
5 predetermined type.

1 25. The system of claim 24 wherein said selected members of said first node and said  
2 selected members of said third node are selected in response to a value of a second  
3 parameter.

1 26. The system of claim 19 wherein said first parameter comprises a parameter of a  
2 set of parameters in a search request.

1 27. The system of claim 26 wherein said search request comprises a Lightweight  
2 Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) search request.